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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 February 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by His Excellency, Mr. Ilija Djukic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the statement of His Excellency Mr. Warren Christopher, Secretary of State of the United States of America (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia concerning the statement of the Secretary of State of the United States of America

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the decision of the United States of America to engage actively and directly in the current peace negotiations regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We consider it very significant that the United States strongly supports the efforts through the Vance-Owen negotiations. Yugoslavia has already supported the plan of Mr. Vance and Lord Owen as the most complete and realistic framework for achieving a just and lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite certain shortcomings that can be overcome through negotiations.

We are particularly pleased that the United States shares the long-held Yugoslav position that the only way to end this conflict is through negotiations and that the settlement of the crisis cannot be imposed, but can only be reached by the full agreement of the three Bosnian sides - Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Yugoslavia also welcomes the active involvement in the peace negotiations of the Russian Federation, which like the United States, has strong historical ties with the peoples of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I wish to recall that as early as 30 May 1992, the Serbian leadership proposed that the United States and the Russian Federation be directly involved in the resolution of the crisis in order to avert the onset of bloodshed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regrettably, the statement of the Secretary of State, Mr. Christopher, contains one-sided qualifications and certain allegations directed primarily against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia.

It is astonishing, unacceptable and even discouraging that Yugoslavia and Serbia are threatened with the further tightening of sanctions and political pressure, particularly since it is well known that Yugoslavia and its Republics, Serbia and Montenegro, played a crucial role in Geneva in facilitating the progress in the peace talks, and that we have remained committed to such a policy of peace, which we also confirmed here, in New York. Our peace efforts have been repeatedly commended by the Secretary-General, the Co-Chairmen and in the deliberations in the Security Council.

Since there is no alternative to political settlement, Yugoslavia is prepared to continue to play its role and use its influence so that the Vance-Owen plan will be accepted through peace negotiations with all three

sides. In the same vein, equal pressure should be brought to bear on all sides that instigate armed conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia so that they cease hostilities and accept political negotiations as the only way to resolve the conflicts.

In that connection, we have to point out that Croatia's aggression on the United Nations Protected Areas inhabited predominantly by the Serbs has to be stopped and resolution 802 (1993), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Security Council, fully and immediately implemented, since this aggression directly jeopardizes all peace efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Forty-eighth session

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 10 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus concerning the Supreme Council's ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991 and the Protocol thereto, signed at Lisbon on 25 May 1992, as well as the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament".

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

Letter dated 5 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 4 February 1993 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus ratified the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991 and the Protocol thereto, signed at Lisbon on 25 May 1992, and also took a decision on the accession of Belarus, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

These decisions were taken in accordance with the consistent policy of Belarus to achieve the status of a neutral, non-nuclear-weapon State. For the first time in the history of the international community, a sovereign State has rejected, of its own free will, the possibility of possessing nuclear weapons. Having taken this unprecedented step, Belarus hopes that the international community will support its peace-loving policy and its desire to make its significant contribution to the strengthening of European and global security.

Of all the successor countries to the former USSR bound by the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, Belarus was the first and only State to declare its readiness to comply fully with its obligations under the Lisbon Protocol. The fact that Belarus has ratified the Treaty and the Protocol unconditionally and without any reservations has once again demonstrated the consistent and constructive nature of its foreign policy.

The results of the vote in the Supreme Council of Belarus reconfirm the fact that parliamentarians of all factions support the country's policy to achieve the status of a neutral, non-nuclear-weapon State.

The Republic of Belarus hopes that its position on questions of nuclear disarmament will be properly assessed by the international community.

(Signed) P. KRAVCHENKO

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34 and 79 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 12 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my great honour to forward to you herewith the text of the address delivered by Mr. Askar A. Akaev, President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (see annex) as an offical answer to a distorted reaction to the recent Kyrgyz-Israeli diplomatic negotiations and their results received by some international mass media.

In conformity with my President's request, may I have the privilege also to ask you to circulate the text of the present letter and the aforementioned address as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 34 and 79 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Djoumakadyr A. ATABEKOV

* A/48/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 10 February 1993 from the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Secretary-General

I present my compliments to you and take great pleasure in extending to you cordial greetings and best wishes for success in your efforts to promote peace and progress and further strengthen the international community.

As a Member of the United Nations, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan considers respect for the experience and opinion of the international community, expressed in United Nations documents, as absolute priorities of its foreign policy. It is in this connection that I should like to draw your attention to the principal elements of my Middle East policy. I consider this essential in view of the fact that, in a number of countries, the media have provided imprecise, and at times incorrect, information about my official visit to Israel in January of this year.

Kyrgyzstan fully understands the vital interests of both Arabs and Jews. We welcome the talks that are being held between the Arab countries and Israel. In our view, peace in the Middle East is of importance not only to the countries of that region. It is also of importance to Kyrgyzstan, since it will help stabilize the situation in the entire Islamic world.

We believe that the Palestinian people has an unconditional right to self-determination and State sovereignty.

Kyrgyzstan is in favour of just and secure frontiers between Israel and the Arab countries.

The question of the status of Jerusalem must be settled through negotiations among the parties concerned in the context of achieving a comprehensive, just and stable peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980).

People of all denominations must have access to the Holy Places of Jerusalem, and the City must remain undivided.

Kyrgyzstan's decision to establish a diplomatic presence in Israel will depend on the results of the peace talks between Israel and the Arab countries. In this regard, we will, of course, take into consideration the opinion of the United Nations.

I should be grateful, if you consider it possible and expedient, if you would have this letter circulated in the United Nations.

I enclose herewith the text of the address I delivered at the official welcoming ceremony in Jerusalem on 19 January 1993, which demonstrates the consistency of our Middle East policy.

(Signed) A. AKAEV

APPENDIX

Address delivered by the Republic of Kyrgyzstan at the official welcoming ceremony in Jerusalem on 19 January 1993

Distinguished President Chaim Herzog,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great emotion that I have set foot on the sacred ground of great and beautiful Jerusalem, a city immortalized in the words of the prophets and in the hearts of millions of people of past and living generations.

I have come in order to gain a better understanding of Israel, and in order for Israel to gain a better understanding of us.

Such a goal is, in itself, extremely important and necessary to both our countries. It is a precondition for the successful establishment of ties between Kyrgyzstan and Israel in the most diverse fields: economic, political, cultural and humanitarian.

We are interested in establishing and developing relations with Israel on the basis of partnership and friendship. I hope that, in your country, Mr. President, we shall encounter similar ideas and moods. I am convinced that vigorous contacts both at the State level and at the level of civilian contacts between our and your politicians and businessmen, scientists and cultural figures, would be mutually advantageous.

We have something to say to each other, something with which to complement each other in this world. Our countries have had much in common in the past and will have very much in common in the future. Democracy and freedom, diverse forms of property and management, a social market economy - these are your and our ideals.

Kyrgyzstan understands Israel's current problems and the tireless efforts of the State of Israel in connection with Aliyah. The people of Israel, who for centuries experienced persecution, suffering and humiliation, has the sacred right to return to its historical homeland. As does any other people.

I shall say very frankly that we would not like to part with the Jews living in Kyrgyzstan. They are a part of our people. Together we lived through the difficult war years, years of shared losses and shared victories.

Kyrgyzstan welcomes the talks that are being held between Israel and the Arab States. Peace in the Middle East is of importance not only to the inhabitants of this region. It is also of importance to Kyrgyzstan, since it will help stabilize the situation in the entire Islamic world.

I pray to God that a just settlement of the long and agonizing conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples will at last be found; that would enable the Palestinian people to gain long-awaited independence.

We are in favour of just and secure frontiers between Israel and the Arab countries. We hope that eternal Jerusalem, ancient and modern Jerusalem, will never again be divided and that it will always remain a united city in which Jews, Muslims and Christians live in friendship and peace.

Peace and happiness to the people of Israel.